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# THE LOG



TOC H L.W.H.

January, 1941

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# THE LOG

The Monthly News Sheet of the Toc H League of Women Helpers

All opinions are welcomed. The Editor is not necessarily

in agreement with the views of contributors.

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Vol. XV No. 2

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## Editorial

THE Editor of a small but valiant Toc H contemporary confesses that he put his editorial in the waste-paper-basket, and substituted a friend's letter instead. We feel tempted to follow his example, for we are certain that there is nothing we can say about the New Year that has not been said before. In fact, we feel rather like one of Mr. A. A. Milne's heroes who arrived at a Christmas house party with no presents for his family and friends. He solved the embarrassing problem by getting up early and adding his name to all the parcels which the others had arranged on the breakfast table.

As we pause at the New Year, we can rejoice that our movement has emerged from a year of intense difficulty with its unity unshaken and its purpose steadfast. Not only has the normal life of our units been maintained to a remarkable extent, but new responsibilities are being eagerly grasped, and the scope of our work is widening.

The future holds much of promise, but we must not forget that there are other dangers than defeatism and self-centredness. A smug satisfaction and an easy-going idealism may creep in and stultify new growth. On all sides we hear talk of a "new order", of a better world which must emerge from this chaos. But vague ideals may become a form of escapism, and in the end leave people more disillusioned and despairing than before.

There were some words in a recent broadcast talk, which perhaps we can all profitably take to ourselves. They can be our marching orders for 1941.

"We must remember that the function of ideals is to be translated into deeds. We are set in the world to make a difference to it, and we make a practical difference to it only when we get things done.

"The world is waiting in agony for people who can show that good causes can evoke in their service the same burning conviction, the same capacity for sacrifice, the same organizing imagination and skill that have recently given to evil causes a brilliant though precarious predominance.

"That is the challenge of our day."



## NEWS AND NOTES

**A MESSAGE FROM THE FOUNDER PADRE.** In a letter to the Central Executive Committee, Tubby says; "More than ever I believe in the essential unity of the movement. Toc H would be less true, less right, less certain, if it were not for all the contribution made from the first beginnings by your folk. Keep Toc H true, basing its work on worship, by seeing that your members and your units have even firmer feet and busier hands. My Christmas love to all who come together to pray and plan for all of us."

**THE CENTRAL EXECUTIVE.** We are sorry that, owing to travelling difficulties, Mrs. King has had to resign the chairmanship of the Central Executive; our thanks are due to her for her leadership during the past two years. Kathleen Owen has been elected Chairman in her place.

**THE CENTRAL COUNCIL.** We are glad to report that there has been sufficient response from Councillors to justify our calling a meeting of the Central Council. This will be held in London on Sunday, January 26th.

**ANNUAL REPORT.** This year, for the sake of economy, the Annual Report and Statement of Accounts for 1939/40 will not be issued as a Supplement to the "Log". Instead, copies will be sent to all units and to Area and District office-bearers after the Central Council has given its approval. Further copies will be available at Headquarters for sale at 3d. each.

**ANNUAL SUBSCRIPTIONS.** All members are reminded that their annual subscriptions are due on January 1st. It will be a great help to unit Treasurers, especially in these days of separation, if members will send in their subscriptions as soon as possible without further reminders.

**FINANCE.** The membership is to be congratulated on its loyalty in keeping up its self-assessments. Annual Contributions for 1939/40 exceeded those for the previous year, and as a result of this and of the economies effected in the organisation of the Movement, we have practically made good our deficit for 1938/39. Details will be found in the Annual Report. This is an encouragement and an inspiration.

**THE TOC H DIARY.** Toc H regret that it is not possible to publish the Diary for 1941.

**ALL HALLOWS.** Everyone will learn with a feeling of personal grief of the damage caused to All Hallows, the beloved Guild Church of Toc H on Tower Hill. At the time

of writing these notes it is too early to assess the full extent of the damage. The East End has suffered the most, but though the Richard Chapel has been affected by the blast, the Prince's Lamp and the Forster Memorial remain unharmed. The long tradition of worship, however, is still maintained, as Services are being held in the Porch Room and Leslie's Loft.

**PAST MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.** We have recently had news of two past members of the staff. Mrs. Halliley, writing from Durban, gives a colourful description of the dedication of the new St. Raphael's Church. She also speaks of the first Eisteddfod ever organised for the coloured community, including Keep Fit and Country Dancing Displays. Kathleen Lawley is to be congratulated on obtaining her Commission in the W.A.A.F. She has been posted to Ireland.

**OVERSEAS.** From *Southern Africa*, Elsie Potter writes of the plans being made for opening a "Talbot House" for women in the Services in Pretoria, and we wish this new venture well. L.W.H. in *S. America* continue to show their thought of us in a practical way, and further gifts have come for our War Services Fund. The Santiago Branch has hived off and a new group has been formed. They have been collecting gifts for sale at a Kermesse (interpret, please!)

From *Nairobi* comes news of the Canteen that Toc H and L.W.H. are running for the Native Troops.

A new group has been formed in *North Sydney*, inspired by the success of the Mosman Group, the first to be established in New South Wales. They are helping with the Toc H Services Club and with the "New Australians" Club for Refugees, which has now a membership of nearly 500.

We regret to hear of the death of *Bob Carr*, of Adelaide, one of the early founders of Toc H in South Australia. In "The Link" the Australian Commissioner writes:-

"Not only did he assist Toc H, but his support of L.W.H. in South Australia was a contribution for which members of that body will be for ever grateful and which is reflected in the success it has attained to-day. We mourn the loss of a true friend of whose lovable nature we shall all cherish the memory. We are better for that friendship and leadership, which will be missed by a host of members, past and present."

**AT HOME.** *Coventry Branch* write bravely:-  
"I do not know where all our members



have got to but we are having an L.W.H. meeting next Sunday afternoon, so probably I shall be able to find out about them all.

"Talbot House in Coventry is now a mass of ruins, and all the things we had worked for have gone up in smoke, but we shall have another Talbot House to take its place — of that I feel sure.

"We have lost our Lamp and also our room to meet in, but we shall hold our meetings in members' homes until we once more get settled."

*Bristol Branch write :-*

"We are still alive and kicking in spite of air raids and are in need of some more 'Logs.' Commencing with the January issue please increase our order to 20 per month.

Well done, Coventry and Bristol!

A lone member in *Saffron Walden* has been responsible for starting a Club for the W.A.A.F.'s, the cost of furnishing the room being met by the Toc H-L.W.H. War Services Fund.

The Toc H House in *Broxbourne*, for which L.W.H. is responsible, is now being used as a Services Canteen and Clothing Depot for refugees and evacuees.

**OVERSEAS LINKS.** Mrs. Pridaux-Brune, after many years as Overseas Links Secretary, has now had to hand over as her time is fully occupied at home with evacuees. Our thanks are due to her for linking up our units at home and overseas, and for persevering in spite of discouraging lack of replies to her letters.

Reba Hind-Smith, an early member of L.W.H., is taking her place, and her address is 30 Milton Road, Harpenden, Herts.

We hope that units will review the position with regard to their overseas links and see that the "correspondence flourishes" once more and is maintained.

**YORK HOUSE, FELLING.** Members will be interested to hear that Bette Holliday, an L.W.H. member from Huddersfield, has been

appointed Warden of York House in place of Hilda Wheatcroft. Bette was Trainee at York House for nine months, and has since taken a Social Science training at Liverpool. She says that her "heart is in Tyneside", and we are glad to think that she is continuing with the work she loves and linking up the L.W.H. Movement with York House. We send her our best wishes.

**FELLING NEWS.** Last month we were able to tell you something of the work which is being done for evacuees from London, Coventry and other bombed areas. This month we would like to give you a brief account of our preparations for relief of local inhabitants should a "blitz" come our way.

York House is the headquarters of the Citizen's Advice Bureau and will be used by the local Council as an information Office in case of necessity. In addition, two other Social Service Centres, one at Coldwell Lane and one in Pelaw, are to be used as emergency feeding and sleeping centres for those who may be rendered homeless through enemy action. Beds, blankets and food are all stored in case of emergency and the members of York House with other volunteers, will take up duty there to help the stricken people as soon as the need arises. We hope it may never come, but we must be prepared.

York House and its members are most anxious to help in this time of stress and strain, and when the call comes they will not be found wanting.

**"TREGONAN,"** the first L.W.H. Club for Women in the Services, was opened on November 23rd, and amongst the guests at our house-warming was the Founder-Padre. A first-hand impression of the work of "Tregonan" will appear in our February issue.

**"LOG" CORRESPONDENTS** have been invited to edit a page in "THE LOG" from time to time, with contributions from their unit or district. Slough District are the first to accept this offer, and their page will appear in February.

## NEW YEAR RESOLUTIONS

To reform one's maxims is nothing; it is but to change the title of the book.  
To learn new habits is everything, for it is to reach the substance of life. Life is a tissue of habits.

Amiel



## ROUND THE REGIONS— No. 6

## SOUTHERN REGION

There is a grand spirit developing in these parts, the stress and tragedy of the time is revealing a more real expression of Christian love, which is issuing in much unselfish and courageous service. One is aware of an enlarged vision, a deeper understanding of the eternal things and a quickening sense of community, for there is a growing consciousness that as children of God we are bound together in one family, and must work and think in even greater fellowship and in utter dependence on Him if we are to fulfill the task we believe we are called on to do. For some years L.W.H. has been equipping itself, and now that the challenge has come it is being met with "that adventurous spirit which makes men scorn the way of safety."

Had you been with me these last weeks you would have left your kithfolk of the South with a deep sense of admiration and affection in your hearts. Bombs falling and guns barking don't deter women in the Districts of Bournemouth and Portsmouth from turning out night after night, often at great personal risk, to be of use to the community in many and various ways—organising canteen work, driving ambulances, helping in First Aid Posts and Hospitals, running Socials and Whist Drives for the troops, and being useful in all kinds of W.V.S. work. Southampton has suffered severely in recent weeks and the group has practically disintegrated, but a valiant and courageous attempt is being made to build it up again.

Lest you should think concentration is entirely on jobs, let me hasten to tell you that in this Area is much reading and discussion, for the difficulties of the time prohibit speakers, and the units are relying on their own personnel for talks. There is, too, a deeper insight into the problems confronting us, and a realisation that we can in part, shape the trend of things, though this will mean hard thinking and much sacrifice. Recently in both these Districts, Team and District

Meetings have been held at which the response in every way was simply grand.

In the South Western Area you will find the Districts of West and South Somerset and Devon brought face to face with the suffering of the time by the influx of countless evacuees from the bombed areas, amongst whom they find many jobs to do—providing necessities and homes in surroundings in which little children and their mothers may relax and sleep and eat in comparative safety. One very young unit in the Devon District has, in the absence of the W.V.S. formed, with Toc H, a Welfare Committee in the town, which has proved of great value, and a West Somerset Branch has forged a link with them by sending them parcels of clothing. Thus, by using imagination and vision, the old water-tight compartments are gradually disappearing.

The needs of the troops, and hospitals, and A.R.P. Services are all claiming the attention of the family in their respective ways, but one is glad to be able to report that throughout the region, peace-time jobs are not neglected, and that Felling and the Lepers are remembered. Meetings are regular and thoughtful, though sometimes interrupted by unwelcome sounds. There is a desire to know more of deeper things, but it is good to know that "frivol" nights and parties are as lively as in peacetime and there is plenty of laughter to be heard. Nor are the Arts neglected, for there are play-readings and choirs here and there.

Of new growth you will hear more in later reports. In Truro is a little group of experimenters in the adventure of living and thinking together—the first in Cornwall—and already there is encouraging news of it.

May we add humbly that we do not stand aside from the suffering of the family elsewhere in the country, but that we do indeed share them and are proud to do so joyfully. And we do try to keep the Light shining out clearly, and will do our best not to fail.

A.W.



## THE WORK OF FRIENDSHIP . . . No. 5

### TALBOT HOUSE, COVENTRY

This article was originally written for the November issue of "The Log," but, as was reported in last month's issue, the material was destroyed during a raid. Since then, as most readers will be aware, Coventry has severely suffered from yet another attack by the German raiders, in which Talbot House was reduced to a mass of ruin. However, although it is too early to report anything regarding a new Talbot House, we are looking forward to the time when L.W.H. will be able to help in the building up of Coventry's second contribution to "the work of friendship."

When war broke out, the influx of young people to the "city of the three spires" to work in the factories and other places of industry, created a demand for some place where they could feel at home in their leisure time. Thus it came about that in October of last year, No. 4, Middleborough Road, a large detached house, standing on its own grounds was taken over by Toc H and converted into our Talbot House.

That was the beginning, but much time and thought was necessary before it was ready to receive its first visitors. We needed gifts of money and furniture to make the house comfortable, and with the help of Major Slessor and Alec Churcher, who came down from Headquarters, a large amount of money was collected from various sources in the city. Residents showed great interest, and big furnishing stores helped us in various ways, with the result that after a few weeks time, the ground floor rooms were practically all furnished.

Now through the untiring efforts of Arthur Foster, Charles and Mrs. Young, and our present Warden and his wife (Mr. and Mrs. Tendall), the services of people in their spare time, and the gifts we continue to receive, we feel we have a place which offers men something more than an ordinary club combined with lodging accommodation. Talbot House

is more than this, for it seeks to give men the thing which they need more than ever today, the spirit of friendship.

In giving a description of the house, one usually starts at the bottom, and the cellar now seems to be quite an important place, as it has been turned into an air raid shelter. On the ground floor the most homely room is, of course, the lounge, where fellows can sit round a cosy fire, and talk, read, listen to the wireless or gramophone, or amuse themselves on the piano. On the same floor is the quiet room which can be used for writing letters, etc., and opposite to this is the library, which we of L.W.H. are fortunate in being able to use for our meetings each week, and for such things as District Team Meetings, Rallies, etc. Also on the ground floor is a large dining room, and beyond this is the kitchen.

On the second floor are the sitting room and bedroom of the Warden and his wife; four bedrooms providing sleeping accommodation for about sixteen people; a bathroom, and a games room containing billiards and table tennis.

Up another flight of stairs is the attic, now converted into a beautiful little chapel, where each night Light and prayers are taken by a member of Toc H. The Ceremony of Light is explained to those who are not familiar with Toc H and from this can be gathered that the house does not merely meet the material needs, but also tries to give spiritual help to those who would seek it. The chapel is cleaned each week by a member of L.W.H. and so far two of our meeting nights have been spent in making hassocks. Toc H members have been responsible for the lighting, painting and floor staining.

So we endeavour to carry on, in some measure, the work which Toc H started 25 years ago, and to try to give men a clearer vision of the future which Toc H is striving to build.

*The next article in this series will be an account of Talbot House, Woking.*



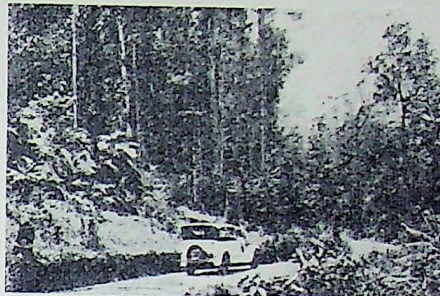
# CHRISTMAS JOURNEY

—contributed by **BRISBANE GROUP, QUEENSLAND**

*Here where the great hills fall away  
To bays of silver sea  
I hold within my hand today  
A wild thing strange to me.*

So sang our poet, Kendall, as he held a sprig of heather from the hills of far off Scotland and soliloquised on the dissimilarity of his Australian surroundings to the mountain side from whence the flower came. The verse flashed through my mind as I gazed at the scene on a Christmas card from L.W.H. Headquarters in London and my thoughts went back to the scenery that we had encountered on our Christmas vacation trip.

On Christmas morning we left Brisbane, four womenfolk in a Morris 8/40, complete with luggage, many etceteras and very little spare room. Down the Pacific Highway we went through Southport and Coolangatta where we stopped to wish friends a Happy Christmas. Following the Tweed River, the road ran for miles through sugar country and past aboriginal settlements, and beyond Murwillumbah we began to climb the Burringbar Range over a road splendidly graded and surfaced. From the mountains we came down by easy stretches to the wide, white beaches and rolling surf of Byron Bay, the most easterly point of the Australian coast. To our disappointment we were not permitted to inspect the lighthouse which



*View on the Range, North Queensland.*

dominates the scene, there being a war on at present. Leaving Byron Bay, "Babe", our sturdy chariot, carried us on to the crest of the plateau which afforded a magnificent panorama of the eastern coast. Our next stop was Bangalow, a typical country town set in a garland of hills, and from here we passed through reedy swamps to reach Ballina, a thriving centre, but not of interest to us at the moment, as East Ballina and its cool surf and sunbaked beach was calling.

Bidding a reluctant farewell to the sea, we travelled through farming districts and gum forests to Lismore, famous as a community of music lovers, and then to Casino which, despite its name, has never known the lure of gambling tables nor heard the sound of roulette. Here we paused for an hour beneath the shade of English oaks growing beside the beautiful Richmond River. Early next morning we left Tabulam where we had slept at a little bush hotel, and found ourselves the only human inhabitants of a freshly washed world; rabbits dashed across the road to be lost in the thick bush on the other side; wallabies and kangaroos gazed in mild-eyed wonder as we passed on our way, which was an ever-ascending one, to the top of the New



*Tropical Grounds on Duak Island, Queensland.*



England tableland.

From Tenterfield we travelled along the plateau to Deepwater and Glen Innes where we spent the night. What a change of climate here! Cold, clear air which made us look for warm coats and whetted our appetites again. Early next morning we left for Grafton, looking forward to the finest scenery of the tour. Down the "Big Hill", as it is called, a descent that calls for low gear and careful driving. The early morning mists were still resting on the hills and far and near the calls of myriad birds added music to the beauty of nature. After descending the mountains, the road follows a river for about 30 miles, and many times we were tempted to stay a while, but as every motorist knows, the road ahead always beckons one on.

At Yaamba, the most southerly point of our trip, we began our homeward trek, from here we came to the sugar cane country and it was strange to us Northerners, accustomed to thinking of Queensland as the sugar producing area of the Commonwealth, to see the cane growing so far south. On through pastoral and farming country, the typically English here, with small fields surrounded by low stone walls and

blossoming hedges, and then back to the mountains. Here, there is excellent timber country and we passed many small communities built around sawmills. This is the border country and the border gate is situated at Mount Lindsay. Here we paused awhile to pay tribute to a gallant hero, Westrey, who died striving to bring help to his comrades who were injured in an aeroplane crash. A fine memorial stone has been placed just within the Queensland border. The road led on through tropical scrub, with tree-ferns and palms and flowering bushes, and soon we were down again once more among the farms, one of the most important of which is a farm for prisoners. This is run on the honour system and has been so successful that three more on the same lines are being planned.

In a few hours we were home in Brisbane again, having seen many beautiful places, met many new and interesting people and altogether had the cobwebs of the Old Year swept away. We were ready to face another year and the anxieties that it must certainly bring, to face it with the conviction that the Divine Father who leads us, will shew us the tasks for our hands, if we have but faith to seek His guidance.

*Photographs by courtesy of Australia House.*

## THE ABIDING PRESENCE



Wherever snow falls, or water flows, or birds fly, wherever day and night meet in twilight, wherever the blue heaven is hung by clouds, or sown with stars, wherever are forms with transparent boundaries, wherever are outlets into celestial space, wherever is danger and awe and love, there is Beauty.

*Ralph Waldo Emerson*



## THE LOG

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